

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-12, 14-18, 20-21, 24-25, 28-29, 31-35, and 37 as follows.

Please cancel claims 13, 19, 22-23, 26-27, 30, 36, and 38-46. Please add new claims 47-72 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications system~~ An apparatus, comprising:
~~at least one user device, said at least one user device configured to access a plurality of services in a session;~~
~~— a first entity including an information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for said at least one user device; and~~
~~a controller, separate to said first entity and said user device, a requesting unit configured to request that in the~~ a first entity including an information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, a portion of said amount of money be reserved at the first entity, as a reserved portion; and
a controller configured to control an allocation of said reserved portion between said a plurality of services to be accessed by said at least one user device in a session,
wherein the allocation is controlled after the request is made, and wherein the apparatus is separate from said first entity, and said at least one user device.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to divide said reserved portion ~~is divided~~ into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the controller is further configured to divide said reserved portion ~~is divided~~ equally.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein the controller is further configured to reallocate said reserved portion ~~is reallocated~~ between said plurality of services when at least one of said plurality of services uses up its part of said reserved portion.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to allocate said reserved portion ~~is allocated~~ based on which of said plurality of services requires said reserved portion.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to allocate said reserved portion ~~is allocated~~ dynamically.

7. (Currently Amended) A system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the controller is further configured to allocate said reserved portion ~~is allocated~~ based on at least one of~~[[:]]~~,

service activity~~[[;]]~~, number of services~~[[;]]~~, and a unit cost of said plurality of services.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said controller is further comprising a monitoring unit~~ configured to monitor how much of said reserved portion has been used.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein the monitoring unit is further configured to monitor said reserved amount ~~is monitored by~~ periodically determining how much of said reserved portion each of said plurality of services have used to provide a plurality of values and summing the plurality of values.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 8, wherein ~~said controller~~ the monitoring unit is further configured to monitor how much of said reserved portion has been used by using information defining a cost of said plurality of services.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said information comprises a cost for one of a data or time unit.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein when said reserved portion is used up or has been at least partially used up a further portion of said amount of money is reservable.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said information store comprises one of[:], a monetary value[:], a data amount representative of said amount of money[:], a time representative of said amount of money[:], and an amount of a service access parameter.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of services comprises an ~~Internet~~ internet service.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said controller comprises~~ further comprising a plurality of entities.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said plurality of entities comprises at least one of a traffic analyzer and a credit controller.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said controller comprises~~ further comprising a credit controller.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said controller is~~ further comprising a storage configured to store information relating to a cost of said plurality of services.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A communications system~~ An apparatus, comprising:
~~at least one user device, said at least one user device being configured to access a plurality of services simultaneously;~~
~~— a first entity configured to store information defining an amount of money for said at least one user device; and~~
~~— a controller~~ a requesting unit configured to request reservation of a portion of said an amount of money as a reserved portion, and defined by information stored at a first entity;

a controller configured to control an allocation of said a reserved portion between said a plurality of services[[,]] to be accessed simultaneously by a user device;

~~wherein said first entity is configured to send to said controller information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount, and said controller is arranged to convert information relating to said amount of said reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount~~

a receiver configured to receiver from said first entity information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount; and

a converter configured to convert information relating to said amount of said reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount.

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim ~~23~~ 21, wherein ~~data~~ first form is one of a cost for a unit amount ~~of or~~ a payment parameter of at least one service of said plurality of services.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said payment parameter is data volume, time, or service parameter of at least one service of said plurality of services.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 24, wherein said information in said first form comprises said unit amount.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein said ~~controller is arranged~~ converter is further configured to convert said unit amount to a corresponding monetary amount to provide said second form.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, ~~wherein~~ said controller which operates in accordance with a remote authentication dial-in user service (RADIUS) protocol.

32. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said first form comprises at least one of time, data volume, or service access parameter.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein said service access parameter comprises at least one of number of clicks or number of accesses.

34. (Currently Amended) ~~A system~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein said second form comprises monetary value, number of clicks and number of accesses.

35. (Currently Amended) A ~~communications method~~, comprising:

~~accessing a plurality of services in a session;~~

~~storing at a first entity, information defining an amount of money for at least one user device;~~

~~requesting to the a first entity storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, from a controller separate from said first entity and said at least one user device, a portion of said amount of money to be reserved as a reserved portion at the first entity; and~~

~~controlling at said controller an allocation of said reserved portion between said a plurality of services to be accessed in a session after the requesting to the first entity.~~

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A ~~communications method~~, comprising:

~~accessing a plurality of services simultaneously;~~

~~storing information defining an amount of money for at least one user device;~~

requesting a reservation of a portion of said an amount of money ~~as a reserved~~
~~portion~~ defined for at least one user device by stored information;

~~sending to receiving, at a controller for allocating said~~ configured to allocate a
reserved portion between said a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously,
information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first form other than a
monetary amount; and

converting information relating to said amount of said portion to a second form as
a monetary amount, and then allocating said reserved portion between said plurality of
services.

38-46. (Cancelled)

47. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, comprising dividing said reserved
portion into a plurality of parts between said plurality of services.

48. (New) The method as claimed in claim 47, comprising dividing said reserved
portion equally.

49. (New) The method as claimed in claim 47, comprising reallocating said reserved portion between said plurality of services when at least one of said plurality of services uses up its part of said reserved portion.

50. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, comprising allocating said reserved portion based on which of said plurality of services requires said reserved portion.

51. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, comprising allocating said reserved portion dynamically.

52. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said reserved portion is allocated based on at least one of,

service activity, number of services, and a unit cost of said plurality of services.

53. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, comprising monitoring how much of said reserved portion has been used.

54. (New) The method as claimed in claim 53, comprising monitoring said reserved amount by periodically determining how much of said reserved portion each of said

plurality of services have used to provide a plurality of values and summing the plurality of values.

55. (New) The method as claimed in claim 53, comprising monitoring how much of said reserved portion has been used by using information defining a cost of said plurality of services.

56. (New) The method as claimed in claim 55, wherein said information comprises a cost for one of a data or time unit.

57 (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, comprising reserving a further portion of said amount of money when said reserved portion is used up or has been at least partially used up.

58. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said information store comprises one of, a monetary value, a data amount representative of said amount of money, a time representative of said amount of money, and an amount of a service access parameter.

59. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein at least one of said plurality of services comprises an internet service.

60. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said controller comprises a plurality of entities.

61. (New) The method as claimed in claim 60, wherein said plurality of entities comprises at least one of a traffic analyzer and a credit controller.

62. (New) The method as claimed in claim 35, wherein said controller comprises a credit controller.

63. (New) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said first form is one of a cost for a unit amount or a payment parameter of at least one service of said plurality of services.

64. (New) The method as claimed in claim 63, wherein said payment parameter is data volume, time, or service parameter of at least one service of said plurality of services.

65. (New) The method as claimed in claim 63, wherein said information in said first form comprises said unit amount.
66. (New) The method as claimed in claim 65, comprising converting said unit amount to a corresponding monetary amount to provide said second form.
67. (New) The method as claimed in claim 37, comprising operating said controller in accordance with a remote authentication dial-in user service (RADIUS) protocol.
68. (New) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said first form comprises at least one of time, data volume, or service access parameter.
69. (New) The method as claimed in claim 68, wherein said service access parameter comprises at least one of number of clicks or number of accesses.
70. (New) The method as claimed in claim 37, wherein said second form comprises monetary value, number of clicks and number of accesses.
71. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

means for requesting that in a first entity including an information store configured to store information defining an amount of money for at least one user device, a portion of said amount of money to be reserved at the first entity, as a reserved portion; and

means for controlling an allocation of said reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed by said at least one user device in a session,

wherein the allocation is controlled after the request is made, and wherein the controller is separate to said first entity and said at least one user device.

72. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

means for requesting reservation of a portion of an amount of an amount of money defined by information stored at a first entity;

means for controlling an allocation of a reserved portion between a plurality of services to be accessed simultaneously by a user device;

means for receiving from said first entity information defining an amount of said reserved portion in a first form other than a monetary amount; and

means for converting information relating to said amount of said reserved portion to a second form as a monetary amount.